

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating antibodies useful for assaying a sample for fuel oxygenates comprising (i) conjugating a hapten ~~having a CH₃O-C(CH₃)₂-CH₂-moiety~~ to a carrier protein to produce a conjugate, wherein said hapten is CH₃O-C(CH₃)₂-CH₂-X-B where X is a spacer and B is a group capable of binding to a carrier protein; (ii) injecting the conjugate into an animal; (iii) harvesting antibody-synthesising cells from the animal; (iv) fusing the antibody-synthesising cells with myeloma cells to form hybridoma cells; (v) cultivating the hybridoma cells; (vi) screening the cultivated cells to find desired cells producing monoclonal antibodies capable of binding methyl tert-butyl ether ("MTBE"); and (vii) cultivating said desired cells and harvesting said monoclonal antibodies.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the spacer X comprises a hydrocarbon chain of 2-8 carbon atoms.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein the spacer X is: -CH₂.CH₂.CH(CH₃).CH₂-₂
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the binding group B is -CHO.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the carrier protein is selected from bovine serum albumin, human serum albumin, rabbit thyroglobin and keyhole limpet haemocyanin.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the monoclonal antibodies exhibit binding to methyl tert-butyl ether, ethyl tert-butyl ether, methyl tert-amyl ether and tert-butyl alcohol.
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Currently Amended) A method of assaying a sample for fuel oxygenates and their breakdown products comprising generating antibodies by a method according to claim 1, further comprising~~and~~ carrying out an immunoassay using said antibodies.
10. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the binding group B is $-\text{CHO}$.
11. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the binding group B is $-\text{CHO}$.